

Message Text

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ACTION NEA-12

INFO OCT-01 EUR-25 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-07 H-03

INR-10 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-10 PA-04 RSC-01 PRS-01 SPC-03

SS-20 USIA-15 OMB-01 DRC-01 (ISO) W

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P R 161440Z JAN 74

FM AMEMBASSY ANKARA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 2419

INFO AMCONSUL ADANA

AMEMBASSY ATHENS

AMCONSUL ISTANBUL

AMCONSUL IZMIR

AMEMBASSY LONDON

AMEMBASSY NICOSIA

AMEMBASSY TEHRAN

USEC BRUSSELS 774

USMISSION NATO

USCINCEUR

EUCOM

CINCUSAFE

USDOCOSOUTH

S E C R E T ANKARA 0361

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PINT, PGOV, TU

SUBJ: PROSPECTS FOR RPP- NSP COALITION GOVE

REF: A. ANKARA 330(NOTAL); B. NRA-4744(NOTAL)

BEGIN SUMMARY: THE ECEVIT-LED REPUBLICAN PEOPLES PARTY (RPP)-NATIONAL SALVATION PARTY (NSP) GOVT THAT MAY SOON ASSUME OFFICE IS BASICALLY AN UNNATURAL COALITION, INHERENTLY UNSTABLE, CONTAINING MANY IDEOLOGICAL DIFFERENCES. IN ADDITION, ITS VOTING STRENGTH OFFERS ONLY A THIN MARGIN FOR EFFECTIVE LEGISLATING. END SUMMARY.

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1. THE PRESS THIS MORNING, JAN 16, IS CONFIDENTLY AS-

SUMING THAT PRIMIN-DESIGNATE ECEVIT WILL HAVE NO SERIOUS DIFFICULTIES IN FORMING AN RPP-NSP COALITION GOVT THAT WILL END THE THREE-MONTH LONG STALEMATE. WE ALSO THINK THIS IS A REASONABLE JUDGEMENT, ALTHOUGH THERE ARE DIFFERENCES BETWEEN THE TWO PARTIES GOING BEYOND THE PRESENT INFORMAL AGREEMENT THAT STILL HAVE TO BE IRONED OUT IN A FORMAL COALITION PROTOCOL. MOREOVER, THERE IS A REAL POSSIBILITY THAT A FEW RANK-AND-FILE NSP MEMBERS WILL RESIGN FROM THE PARTY IN PROTEST, PUTTING IN JEOPARDY THE COALITION'S MAJORITY IN PARLIAMENT. SUCH DEFECTIONS, HOWEVER, COULD BE BALANCED BY ACCESSIONS TO THE RPP FROM THE REPUBLICAN RELAINCE PARTY AND FROM SOME OF THE INDEPENDENTS.

2. PERHAPS SIGNIFICANTLY, ONE NEWSPAPER THIS MORNING REPORTED THAT AN OUTSIDER MIGHT BE GIVEN THE KEY INTERIOR MINISTRY PORTFOLIO, WHICH AS OF NOW IS SUPPOSED TO GO TO THDE NSP. IF TRUE, THIS MIGHT MOLLIFY THE CONCERNS IN MILITARY AND OTHER QUARTERS THAT THE WRONG KIND OF INTERIOR MINISTER MIGHT DRASTICALLY CHANGE THE INTELLIGENCE AND SECURITY MACHINERY OF THE GOVT, OR INITIATE INVESTIGATIONS INTO THE EXCESSES OF THE MARTIAL LAW ADMINISTRATORE (SEE IN THIS CONNECTION ANKARA 269(NOTAL) AND REF B).

3. THE COMBINED VOTE OF THE TWO PARTIES IN THE LOWER HOUSE IS NOW 234, OR EIGHT VOTES OVER AN ABSOLUTE MAJORITY. ALTHOUGH A VOTE OF CONFIDENCE IN THE NEW GOVT REQUIRES ONLY A SIMPLE MAJORITY OF THOSE PRESENT, THIS EIGHT VOTE MARGIN DOES NOT CONSTITUTE A WORKABLE OR DEPENDABLE MAJORITY FOR ENACTING LEGISLATION. JUSTICE PARTY LEADER DEMIREL, FOR EXAMPLE, HAS LONG ARGUED THAT ANY GOVT NEEDS A 25 VOTE MARGIN AS A MINIMUM FOR EFFECTIVT GOVT.

4. ASIDE FROM THIS PROBLEM, THE COALITION ITSELF IS AN UNNATURAL ONE IN A GREAT MAY RESPECTS, AND DSPUTES COUDL BE EXPECTED TO DEVELOP BETWEEN THE SECULARISTS IN ONE PARTY AND THE STRONG MUSLIMS IN THE OTHER OVER EDUCATIONAL POLICY, FOR EXAMPLE.

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5. THUS, ANY SUCH GOVT WILL BE INHERENTLY UNSTABLE AND PROBABLY WILL REVEAL A CONSIDERABLE DEGREE OF INDISCHIOINE. IN THIS KIND OF SITUATION WE DO NOT RULE OUT THE POSSIBILITY THAT ECEVIT WILL PURPOSEFULLY PROJECT THE BOLDEST AND MOST DYNAMIC POSSIBLE IMAGE AND SEEK A LEGISLATIVE PROGRAM ORIENTED TOWARDS THE LEFT WITH HIGH POPULAR APPEAL FOR HIS PARTY'S NATURAL CONSTITUENCY. IF AN ECEVIT EFFORT OF THIS KIND IS THEN FRUSTRATED BY POWER BALANCE OF CURRENT PARLIAMENT,

HE CAN THEREAFTER SEEK NEW ELECTIONS
WITH VIEW TO ASKING VOTERS
TO SEND HIM A PARLIAMENT WHICH WOULD UNTIE HIS HANDS AND
ALLOW HIM TO IMPLEMENT HIS PROGRAMS.

6. IN THE MEANTIME, HOWEVER, ECEVIT WILL HAVE TO TACKLE
SOME CHILLING ECONOMIC PROBLEMS OF HIGH PRIORITY, IN
PARTICULAR THE DETERMINATION OF THE CONSUMER PRICE RISES IN
MANY GOVT-CONTROLLED COMMODITIES REQUIRED BY LONGSTANDING
INFLATIONARY SPIRAL RECENTLY ACCELERATED BY WORLD ENERGY
CRISIS. HE ALSO MUST PRESS FOR PASSAGE OF A PROVISIONAL
BUDGET BY THE CONSTITUTIONAL DEADLINE OF MARCH 1 AND CARRY
OUT HIS AND ERBAKAN'S PROMISES(REIGERATED AGAIN THIS LAST
WEEKEND) FOR AN EARLY GENERAL AMNESTY.

7 WE ARE OF COURSE PREPARING FOR THE EARLIEST FEASIBLE
TALKS WITH THE NEW LEADERSHIP ABOUT ISSUES IMPORTANT TO USG
INTERESTS, INCLUDING INTER ALIA THE OPIUM POPPY BAN AND US-
TURK SECURITY RELATIONS.
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